

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07

CIEP-02 OPIC-12 SCEM-02 INT-08 DRC-01 EUR-25 /197 W

----- 036796

R 051021Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9016

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4436

E O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SF

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON OIL SITUATION

1. ON EVENING DEC. 4, PRIME MINISTER MADE EXTREMELY LOW-KEYED RADIO STATEMENT ON OIL SITUATION. AFTER THANKING PEOPLE FOR SUPPORT OF PREVIOUS FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES (WHICH PROVES TO "OUR ENEMIES" THAT SA WILL STAND FIRM), HE SAID SAVINGS SUBSTANTIAL BUT NOT RPT NOT ENOUGH AND ANNOUNCED NEW RESTRICTIONS: EFFECTIVE DEC. 10, GAS TO BE SOLD ONLY MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 0600 TO 1800. HE SAID RATIONING TO BE AVOIDED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BUT THAT NECESSARY PAPERWORK UNDERWAY AND INDICATED TARGET DATE OF MARCH 1. HE NOTED PROVIOUS HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS WITH BLS COUNTRIES AND SAID "REGULAR CONTACT WILL BE MAINTAINED AND OUR NEIGHBORS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE SERIOUS SITUATION AND PRECISELY HOW VULNERABLE THEY ARE SHOULD THE POSITION DETERIORATE". STATED NEIGHBORS SOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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BE APPLYING SAME CONSERVATION MEASURES. PM CLOSED STATEMENT BY

GIVING BASIS FOR RATIONING SCHEME: (A) MAINTENANCE OF BUSINESS, ESSENTIAL SERVICES, AND PRODUCTION OF GOODS AND FOODSTUFFS WITH AS LITTLE DISRUPTION AS POSSIBLE, AND (B) MONTHLY ALLOWANCES TO MOTORISTS TO BE USED AT THEIR DISCRETION.

2. COMMENT: STATEMENT REASSURING IN TONE RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE. IT DID NOT RPT NOT GIVE ANY SPECIFICS OF SITUATION, DISCUSS POSSIBLE EXTERNAL COUNTERMEASURES MENTIONED BY PRESS (EG. CONTROL OF BUNKERING AND / OR GOLD), OR TOUCH ON POSSIBLE EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE (EG. SUPPORT BY EUROPE).
HURD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 05 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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